



AMY SUE VRUWINK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

September 2, 2011, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing about AT&T's proposal to merge with T-Mobile USA, which is under review in the Commission's 11-65 docket.

As a member of the Wisconsin Assembly's Committee on Agriculture as well as the Committee on Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs, I have had the chance to deal with a number of issues affecting farms, agri-businesses and residents of rural areas in the state.

One common theme I've heard is how communications and information is playing an increasingly vital role in agriculture and other businesses in rural Wisconsin. Contrary to the popular impression that smartphones and mobile broadband networks are largely urban phenomena, many of my constituents view this technology as a "breakthrough" in how they farm and work.

Although it has been encouraging to see the work done by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend mobile broadband to farmers and other rural residents, there is still a long way to go. State-of-the-art networks simply do not reach many Americans beyond large cities and towns.

I believe an AT&T/T-Mobile merger can change that. Already, the companies have stated in writing that they will have the ability to deliver 4G LTE technology to 55 million more people than are currently covered. Such capabilities would have an enormously positive effect on rural communities and the Wisconsin agriculture industry as a whole.

I am enthusiastic about the possibilities of mobile wireless networks for my constituents and I hope you and your fellow commissioners will approve the merger in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Sue Vruwink".

Representative Amy Sue Vruwink
Wisconsin State Assembly
70th Assembly District

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn